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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(December 22, 1983 - January 21, 1984)

February 1984

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: Rachel Warner

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

Summary of Commentary In Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa
(22 December 1983 - 21 January 1984)

Africa General

Elephant Population

(Excerpt) Although in Africa there has never been a census of elephants, it is estimated that in 34 sub-Saharan African countries, more than one million of the giants exist. (31 Dec 83, p. 5)

UN Commission on African Development

(Excerpt) During the last press conference in Addis Ababa, the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, A. Adededeji, assessed economic development on the African continent during 1983. He noted the complexity of the problems which plague Africa. There was a weakened demand for African raw materials, lowering the prices of products manufactured on the continent. Africa also is running into a serious problem of feeding its population. (5 Jan 84, p. 4)

Angola

Support of Soviet Initiatives

(Excerpt) Angolan Minister of Foreign Affairs P. Jorge described the peaceful initiatives of the Soviet Union toward a healthy international climate and to avert nuclear war as humane. He emphasized that these initiatives enjoy the understanding and support of the MPLA-Workers' Party and the Angolan Government. (28 Dec 83, p. 4)

First Meeting of Youth Committee

(Excerpt) From famous May 1st Square, witnesses to Angola's proclamation of independence dispersed in the streets, traveling from Luanda to all parts of the country. One of the most populated quarters of the Angolan capital is the Bairro where, on the quiet street of Marecush, small houses are tightly packed together, distinguished by a massive brick building. Since October of last year, this building and its grounds was passed on to city authorities at the bequest of the National Committee of the Youth Party. Alberto Nunesh, who manages the National Committee, says that the decision was made to establish a meeting place for the first time, and that internationalists from Cuba, East Germany, Bulgaria, the Soviet Union, Hungary, Vietnam, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Uruguay were invited to the first meeting. (6 Jan 84, p. 5)

Letter of Friendship

(Summary) In an open letter to CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Yuri Andropov, Angolan President Jose dos Santos expresses the friendship of the Angolan people with the Soviet Union on the eighth anniversary of Angolan independence. (8 Jan 84, p. 1)

Party Schools Abound

(Excerpt) The lights of the Agostino Neto national party school burn until late in the evening. The school has a green fence in front of it, and is situated on a quiet side street named for an early 20th century Angolan writer. These days, only old people remember the days of February 1977 when in this building, where in colonial times girls of noble families came, several enthusiasts came whom the MPLA leadership charged with establishing a school for training cadres for the future party.

The growth of a network of party schools was determined as the basic form of training for MPLA-Workers' Party cadres. The realization of this task in the provinces began frequently with a search for a place to build a school building. Today, party schools are found in seven provinces with about 3,900 students. (10 Jan 84, p. 4)

Angola/Republic of South Africa

Commentary Critical of South Africa

(Excerpt) Now, when the UN Security Council is reviewing the situation in Angola where blood is being shed anew, South Africa has launched another aggressive attack against the country. South Africa is trying to achieve its longterm goal with these barbarous methods--the destabilization of the situation in Angola and the overthrow of the government whose progressive internal and foreign policies provoke the hatred of the racists. (22 Dec 83, p. 5)

South African Attack Repulsed

(Text) South African intervention in the Angolan city of Caundo included a bombing attack; soldiers of the interventionists attempted to capture the city, but the attack was repulsed and the aggressors retreated with significant losses. (24 Dec 83, p. 5)

Bombing Attacks

(Excerpt) According to reports in an Angolan Defense Ministry communication, from 24 to 28 December, Mirage and Impala bombers of the South African Air Force have launched attacks on the villages of Cachama, Cassinga, and Mudondo in the south. (27 Dec 83, p. 4)

US Blamed with South Africa

(Excerpt) Difficult battles are being waged once again in southern Angola. The South African racist regime, with US support, is increasing its massive aggression against this young, independent state. The interventionists are dealing cruelly with peaceful citizens, destroying villages, schools, and hospitals. The National Armed Forces of Angola (FAPLA) are stoically resisting the aggression.

The international community, represented in the UN Security Council, has condemned the barbarous actions of the racists, and only the representatives of the United States shield their allies. The African press reports that the

present attack of war fever of the southern African countries is directly connected with American militaristic policies on the whole continent. Washington and Pretoria have set themselves the task of destabilizing Angola and overthrowing its legitimate government. (28 Dec 83, p. 4)

Angolan Ties With USSR Strong

(Excerpt) A fierce battle is once again being waged in Angola. The South African regime, supported by the United States, is cruelly making short work of peaceful citizens, destroying their villages, schools, and hospitals. Angola's Armed Forces (FAPLA) are stoically fighting back. The international community, including the UN Security Council, condemns these barbarous actions.

Six years ago, in December 1977, the first congress of the MPLA-Workers' Party took place when the historical decision was made to reorganize the heterogeneous nature of the liberation movement into an avant-garde workers' party. Year after year, friendship and cooperation is growing and strengthening between Angola and the Soviet Union. (28 Dec 83, p. 4)

South African Presence

(Excerpt) Angola is enduring a difficult period--the South African racists, encouraged by the forces of international imperialism, are increasing their widescale barbarous aggression against Angola, stated Angolan President Jose dos Santos during a conversation with Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso who was in Angola for an official friendly visit.

In the provinces of Cunene, Huila and Cuando-Cubango, three South African motorized brigades, numbering about 18,000 soldiers and officers, are deployed. They have at their disposal about 100 planes as well as several artillery units with 155-mm howitzers. (29 Dec 83, p. 8)

Bombing Attack

(Excerpt) The Angolan Defense Ministry reports that on 29 December, the South African Air Force launched a massive bombing attack on the village of Luiovo (Huila Province). The Angolan news agency ANGOP reports that in southern Angola, about 100 military planes and three motorized brigades are being deployed. (31 Dec 83, p. 5)

Bulgaria, OAU, L'Humanite Criticize South Africa

(Excerpt) The barbarous aggression of South Africa against Angola is an effort by the racists, along with the United States and its NATO allies, to destabilize the country and overthrow its legitimate government, declared the Bulgarian committee for solidarity with Asian and African Peoples in a document.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU), in a publication released in Addis Ababa, writes that South African aggression in Angola is killing innocent people, including women and children.

In Paris, L'Humanite writes that France has condemned South Africa's aggressive actions and should speak out against attempts by the United States and South Africa to link the Namibian problem with Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola. (1 Jan 83, p. 5)

South African 'Death Columns' Advancing on Angola

(Text) The first days of the new year were far from peaceful in the south of the African continent where the racist South African military is increasing the scale of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola. South African Army subunits have penetrated deep into Angolan territory. The racists are using tanks, artillery, combat planes and helicopters, and other hardware. The leader of South Africa's military department stated that the troops received the order to advance as far as possible toward the north of Angola and that they will be on the territory of that sovereign country "for as long as is considered necessary." According to news agency reports, mobile detachments of South African troops, the so-called "death columns," are using "scorched earth" tactics on the occupied territory. They have chalked up hundreds of inhabitants killed and wounded, and settlements, hospitals, and schools destroyed. Trying to justify its barbarous actions, the Pretoria regime made a farfetched claim about the presence in Angola of SWAPO "guerrillas," against whom the present operations were allegedly undertaken. This false pretext is rejected even by the South African mass media, which report that strikes are being made mainly against major industrial centers. The South African terrorists recently bombed the suburbs of Lubango, the biggest city in southern Angola, located nearly 500 kilometers from the Namibian border.

The progressive African press, noting the extremely dangerous nature of the escalation of aggression, writes that its main aim is to try by force of arms to make Angola depart from its chosen path, renounce its support of the Namibian patriots in the form of SWAPO and the African National Congress of South Africa, and change its attitude toward the Socialist countries. Undoubtedly the barbarous new aggression against Angola is being implemented in full accordance with the plan elaborated by the US and South African special services, the aim of which is to overthrow the republic's present government and install a pro-Western puppet regime there. The racist South African regime, the Times of Zambia writes, was able to launch a largescale intervention against Angola and occupy part of its territory only thanks to US sponsorship. The Reagan Administration, the newspaper goes on, rejected outright the only possible way of achieving peace in the region--the speedy withdrawal of the South African Army from Angola and the granting of independence to Namibia.

The exacerbation of the situation in southern Africa through the fault of the United States and those who execute its will--the Pretoria racists--has aroused anger and indignation among the international public. South Africa's brazen actions were condemned by the UN Security Council. A resolute demand for an immediate end to the intervention in Angola was made by the OAU and the leaders of the frontline states of southern Africa. Washington's and Pretoria's adventurist actions are resolutely rebuffed by the Angolan people. In the face of the real threat which exists, the Angolan Government declares that it will not allow itself to be intimidated and will take every necessary measure to withstand the aggressors. There can be no doubt that the young republic will be able to uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The solidarity and support of progressive forces throughout the world is on the side of the Angolan people's just cause. (2 Jan 84, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #002, 4 Jan 84, pp. J2-3)

Dos Santos Calls for UN Meeting

(Excerpt) Angolan President Jose dos Santos has demanded an immediate meeting of the UN Security Council in connection with the intensification of South African aggression against Angola. In a message to the UN Secretary General, the Angolan leader calls attention to the effects of the military situation in the country, specifically the advances of the South African regular army in northern regions of Angola. At present, the document notes, fierce battles are being waged in regions around the villages of Cuvele and Cachama (Cunene Province), Mulondo (Huila Province), and Caundo (Cuando-Cubango Province). The South African army, which has advanced to a distance of 200 kilometers from the Namibian-Angolan border, is organized into three motorized brigades, four artillery groups, and two parachute battalions. Protests about this aggression have also come from Portugal, the Netherlands, Ethiopia, West Germany, and Greece. (4 Jan 84, p. 5)

South African Aggression

(Summary) Another article on President dos Santos' appeal to the UN Security Council in the face of widening South African aggression appears. (5 Jan 84, p. 5)

USSR 'Resolutely Demands' End to RSA 'Aggression'

(Text) The situation in the south of Africa has lately been seriously aggravated. Grossly flouting the decisions of the UN Security Council, the Republic of South Africa does not end its unlawful occupation of a part of Angolan territory and, moreover, is enlarging the scale of its aggressive actions against that sovereign country. Recently, motorized units of the South African regular army, supported by tanks, artillery, and the Air Force, intruded again deep into the southern areas of Angola. Many population centers in that country are subjected to massive missile and bomb strikes and artillery shelling, as a result of which there are numerous victims among the civilian population and homes, hospitals, and schools have been destroyed. The aggressor obviously counts on impunity. Its goal is the same, namely, to overthrow the progressive regime in Angola. At the same time these actions belie the more far-reaching plans of the South African leaders to perpetuate racist and colonial structures in the southern African region through using armed force on a systematic basis, through destabilizing the situation in neighboring independent African states and through frustrating a political settlement in Namibia.

It is perfectly obvious that South Africa's latest intrusion into sovereign Angola is directly linked to the stepped up aggressiveness of international imperialism, first and foremost US imperialism, and to acts of lawlessness perpetrated by it against the peoples of Grenada, Lebanon, and Nicaragua. Pretoria's racist regime would have been unable to act so arrogantly and impudently if it had not felt the support and encouragement of Washington. It is precisely from the United States and some other NATO countries that South Africa is getting combat technology used by the racists to fight the freedom-loving peoples of Africa. The Soviet Union resolutely demands an end to all South African acts of aggression, both direct and indirect, against Angola and the complete withdrawal of South African troops from the parts of Angola occupied by them. South Africa's latest act of aggression against Angola is graphically demonstrating anew that through the fault of the racist leaders of South Africa and their backers, a situation that is dangerous to the cause of peace has taken

shape in the south of Africa and that urgent and concerted international efforts are needed to remove it. In this situation the proposals formulated by Angola in a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar sound timely and well-justified. They are as follows: to put an end to hostilities in Angola, the removal of the South African invaders from it, and at long last to set about the practical implementation of a political settlement in Namibia in accordance with UN decisions on Namibia, including Security Council Resolution 435.

The Soviet Union believes that the states holding dear the peace and security of the peoples, all the people of goodwill should raise their voice in defence of Angola and frustrate by their resolute actions the plans of the racist aggressors and their backers. Aggression cannot be left unpunished. (6 Jan 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #004, 5 Jan 84, p. J1)

Increasing South African Aggression

(Excerpt) Racist South Africa is expanding its widespread aggression against Angola. South African planes are bombing and shelling Angolan cities and villages in an area within 300 kilometers of the border with Namibia. Motorized units, with tank, artillery, and air support, have invaded deep into Angolan territory--already almost 250 kilometers. The new invasion by racist troops into Angola, states an ANGOP commentary, has occurred under the false pretense of pursuit of SWAPO troops whose "bases" are in Angolan territory. However, these fabrications have no basis in fact. The aggressors, emphasizes ANGOP, are fighting Angolan military units.

The Mozambican Government appealed to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to use all the resources at their disposal to put an end to South African aggression in Angola.

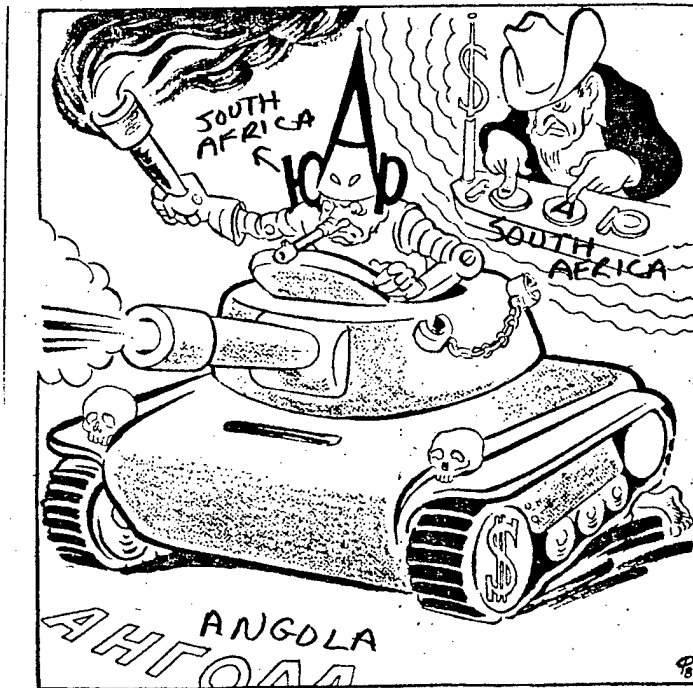


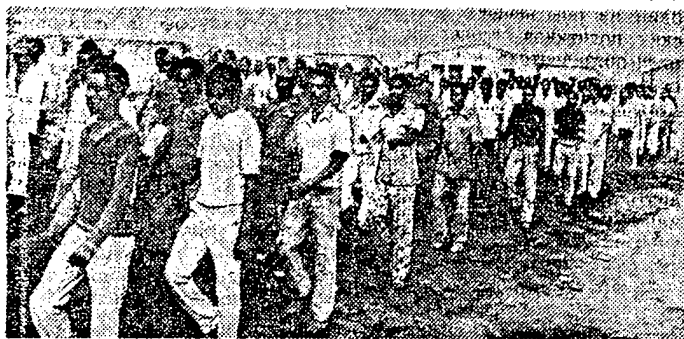
Рисунок В. Фомичева.

(7 Jan 84, pp. 1, 5)

UN Security Council Condemns South Africa

(Excerpt) The UN Security Council has condemned South Africa for its "new premeditated and unprovoked bombing attacks, as well as for its continuing occupation of regions of Angola."

The Angolan people have firmly resolved to repulse South African aggression. In many regions of Angola, national guard brigades have been formed for the defense of the revolutionary achievements.



Volunteers of One of These Brigades in Bie Province

(8 Jan 84, p. 5)

South Africa Rejects Resolution

(Summary) According to reports from Pretoria, the racist South African authorities, rejecting the UN Security Council resolution, said that they will continue their military occupation of Angola with the goal of "pursuing SWAPO partisans," the bases of whom are located on Angolan territory.

Other nations which have spoken in support of Angola and against South Africa are Madagascar, North Korea, and Ethiopia.



(9 Jan 84, p. 1)

Intensified Attacks

(Excerpt) The Angolan Defense Ministry has issued a communique stating that South Africa has intensified its aggression against the country following the UN Security Council resolution. On 7 January, the document states, 20 planes and fighterjets of the South African Air Force bombed the village of Caundo in Cuando-Cubango Province killing and injuring peaceful citizens. South African soldiers also attacked the villages of Cuvele in Cunene Province. (10 Jan 83, p. 5)

Soviet-Angolan-Cuban Consultations

(Text) Soviet-Angolan-Cuban consultations were held in Moscow 11 January, in the course of which the situation in and around Angola was examined, particularly in connection with the exacerbation of the situation in the south of Africa caused by the Republic of South Africa's aggressive actions against the People's Republic of Angola. The exchange of opinions was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere and in a spirit of complete mutual understanding. Solidarity with the Angolan people's struggle in defense of their revolutionary gains was stressed at the consultations. An understanding was reached, also, on providing aid to the People's Republic of Angola in the matter of strengthening its defense capability, independence, and territorial integrity. (13 Jan 84, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #009, 13 Jan 84, p. J1)

US Behind South African Aggression in Angola



Whoever doesn't care a bit about laws, kindles the fire here!

"Peacemakers"

Washington--South African sponsor!

Кто плюет на все законы,
Чтобы здесь разжечь
пожар!
«Миротворцы»

Вашингтона —
Покровители ЮАР!
Рисунок Л. Горохова.
Стихи С. Смирнова.

(14 Jan 84, p. 5)

South African Expanded Aggression

(Text) Racist South Africa is expanding its widescale aggression against Angola, ignoring the UN Security council resolution on the withdrawal of South African troops from Angolan territory. Units of Angola's Armed Forces (FAPLA) are giving the aggressors a well-deserved rebuff.



Armored carrier used by FAPLA

(20 Jan 84, p. 5)

Benin

Cordial Greetings

(Text) The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium have sent Mathieu Kerekou, Chairman of the Benin People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and President of the People's Republic of Benin, a telegram conveying on behalf of the Soviet people cordial congratulations to the president, the Benin People's Revolutionary Party, and the friendly Beninese people on the country's national holiday, together with wishes for further successes in resolving the tasks facing the country of economic and social development along the path of building a new society. People in the Soviet Union, the telegram says, view with great sympathy the struggle of the People's Republic of Benin against imperialism, for the complete liberation and rallying of African peoples, and for lasting peace all over the world.

In a reply telegram to the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, M. Kerekou expressed sincere thanks for the congratulations and good wishes. The telgrams express confidence that the relations of friendship and multifaceted cooperation prevailing between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Benin will continue to develop to the benefit of both countries' peoples. (30 Dec 83, p. 2, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #001, 3 Jan 84, p. J2)

President's Speech

(Excerpt) The building of a Socialist society is possible only for active and conscientious parts of the wide masses in the process of national construction, said Benin's President M. Kerekou. Speaking at the opening in

Cotonou of a session of the National Revolutionary Meeting, he emphasized the necessity of struggling for right expenditures of budgetary allocations and an increase in production. (5 Jan 84, p. 4)

Cameroon

New Ambassador to USSR

(Excerpt) The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Cameroon, Paul Donstop, delivered his credentials in the Kremlin to Presidium of the Supreme Soviet member P. G. Gilashvil. (28 Dec 83, p. 4)

Cape Verde

Soviet Groups Congratulate Cape Verde President

(Text) To Comrade Aristides Maria Pereira, Secretary General of the African Independence Party Cape Verde and President of the Republic of Cape Verde Islands:

We send you cordial congratulations on your 60th birthday. You are known in the Soviet Union as an eminent African politician and loyal continuer of the cause of Amilcar Cabral. Soviet people have deep sympathy for the Republic of Cape Verde Islands which consistently advocates peace and international cooperation and supports the people's just struggle against colonialism, racism, and apartheid. We value highly the efforts the Cape Verde leadership is making aimed at building a new society free from man's exploitation. We wish you, Comrade Pereira, good health and great successes in your responsible party and state activity for the benefit of the Cape Verde people, in the interests of the freedom of Africa and the consolidation of Cape Verde-Soviet friendship and cooperation, and in the name of lasting peace and international security. (3 Jan 84, p. 1, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #004, 6 Jan 84, pp. J3-4)

Chad

Oueddei Speaks Out

(Excerpt) The leader of the Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT), Goukouni Oueddei, strongly condemned French and American intervention in Chad during a speech in Cotonou before journalists at the conclusion of his visit in Benin. He characterized the leader of the regime in N'Djamena as an "American henchman." (23 Dec 83, p. 1)

Thwarting a Settlement

(Excerpt) Consultations continue in the Ethiopian capital between Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the OAU, and the leaders of delegations from Chadian military-political groupings who have come here to participate in talks on settling the Chad problem. As an OAU spokesman reported, these consultations pursue the goal of elaborating a basis for constructive talks on Chad. Observers draw attention to the obstructionist stance of the N'Djamena regime, which, egged on by the United States and France, is trying to thwart the OAU's efforts to settle the Chad conflict on the basis of national reconciliation. Hissain Habre, head of the regime, refused to come to the Ethiopian capital, and the delegation

he sent is putting forward various procedural stipulations which are hindering the commencement of the meeting's work. At the same time the US and French propaganda services have launched a campaign in support of the N'Djamena regime's demands to grant its envoys at the talks the status of representatives of Chad's sole legitimate government. In this connection fierce attacks are made on the OAU leadership, which insists on the principle of equality of all participants in the meeting.

Hissein Habre's regime is by no means disposed to facilitate the holding of the meeting in Addis Ababa, L'Humanite writes. The intransigence of the present ruler in the Chad capital has obviously increased since the sudden death of his Foreign Minister, I. Miskine. Last summer Miskine, the newspaper notes, embarked on talks with representatives of the National Unity Transition Government without Habre's sanction, and his disappearance was very convenient for Habre. However, as the magazine Afrique-Asie, which is published here, points out, even within the ranks of his army those who call openly for national reconciliation are growing in number. The Chadians, the magazine stresses, must resolve their own problems. Any solution imposed from outside will only give rise to new difficulties. (12 Jan 84, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #009, 13 Jan 84, p. J2)

Oueddei Speaks at Press Conference

(Excerpt) Consultations continue in Addis Ababa between the OAU and leaders of delegations from Chad. Goukouni Oueddei, who came here for the talks, noted during a press conference that the transitional government and its representatives in Addis Ababa are full of goodwill and firm resolve to find a peaceful solution with the N'Djamena group. However, Habre, continued Oueddei, has ignored all efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Chadian problem. (15 Jan 84, p. 5)

Impasse in Chad

(Excerpt) The talks in Addis Ababa on Chad were unsuccessful. Chad continues to be divided. What will be the next attempt to find a peaceful solution to the problem? The political history of this country has consisted of coups and civil war. In 1979, an agreement was reached in Lagos between 11 Chadian groups on the establishment of a Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) headed by Goukouni Oueddei which opened the door to outside regulation, but it only relieved tensions for a short time. In the middle of 1982, N'Djamena was captured by Hissein Habre who, however, was unable to gain support in the country and his regime collapsed. Then France and the United States began aiding Habre last year. The striving to find a way out of this impasse into which the imperialist and neocolonists have led Chad is supported by all the progression forces on the continent. (18 Jan 84, p. 5)

Congo

Congolese President Speaks Out

(Excerpt) Angola, Grenada and Lebanon are enduring barbarous aggression from the imperialist powers and their allies, said Congolese President Sassou Nguesso in Brazzaville. (7 Jan 84, p. 5)

Ethiopia

Party Preparations

(Excerpt) Thanks to the actions of COPWE, preparations for the formation of an avant-garde party of the working class are being made, writes the Ethiopian Herald. (26 Dec 83, p. 4)

Trade Union Membership Increases

(Excerpt) There are now 280,000 people belonging to the all-Ethiopia Trade Union. Since the second congress of the union which took place half a year ago, the membership of the Union has increased by more than 5,000. (8 Jan 84, p. 5)

Tea Production Expands

(Excerpt) Ethiopian coffee has earned worldwide fame. Ethiopian tea is less esteemed. The first planting of tea began about half a century ago, but the development of tea production has only begun now. In Illubabor Province, tea planting has already developed over 315 hectares and next year will increase by 185 hectares. A new tea factory is being built here. Soon production will begin in Kefa Province where a factory for processing of tea leaves is planned. The Ministry for Development of the Coffee and Tea Industry of Ethiopia defined new regions where it is possible to cultivate this culture in Wellega and Sidamo Provinces. It is supposed to enlist the efforts of farmers and cooperatives. (9 Jan 84, p. 5)

Youth Begin Military Registration

(Excerpt) A decree issued by the Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC) on the introduction of military duty, published last year, is beginning the registration of youth in the country for the call up in the revolutionary armed forces. 13 Jan 84, p. 5)

Ghana

Presentation of Credentials

(Text) John Tettega, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana, presented his credentials to P. G. Gilashvili, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at the Kremlin 23 December. Following the presentation of credentials and an exchange of speeches, P. G. Gilashvili and John Tettega held a friendly talk in which N. S. Ryzhov, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, took part. (24 Dec 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #252, 30 Dec 83, p. J2)

Guinea

Protocol Signed

(Excerpt) In Conakry, a protocol on cultural and scientific cooperation between the Soviet Union and Guinea was signed. It foresees the future development and deepening of cooperation in the fields of education and health, scientific research, art, culture, and cinematography. (15 Jan 84, p. 4)

Lesotho/Republic of South Africa

Lesotho Fears South African Attack

(Excerpt) Lesotho has informed the UN that the Pretoria regime is preparing to attack with the purpose of overthrowing the government. In reality, such a threat is undoubtedly coming. Surrounded on all sides by South Africa, this tiny kingdom has become the target of continual provocations by its neighbor.

South Africa is striving at any price to strengthen its shaky position and to subordinate its neighboring states to its dictates, to force them to break off their support of the Namibian struggle. (26 Dec 83, p. 5)

Madagascar

Russian Language Training

(Excerpt) Students in high schools in Antsiranane, Antsirabe, and Toamasina began the study of the Russian language for the first time. Soviet instructors are helping in this effort. (27 Dec 83, p. 4)

Mozambique

Government Troops on the Offensive

(Text) A serious defeat was sustained by Mozambique National Resistance Movement rebels. Since March of this year, government forces have raided rebel camps in the provinces of Manica, Gaza, Zambezia, and Inhambane. More than 3,000 ruffians have been captured. (29 Dec 83, p. 8)

New Year's Day Message

(Excerpt) Mozambique is calling for peace in southern Africa. Such a policy is a component of the general forces behind all of progressive mankind, struggling against aggressive imperialism which is to blame for the tragic events in the Middle East, new American missiles in Western Europe, the invasion of Grenada, and continuing aggression against Angola. These themes were brought up in President Machel's New Year's Day message.

Mozambique, said the President, is expanding relations with all countries on the basis of respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs. Machel emphasized that the development of the republic in 1983 was continuing under conditions imposed by MNR rebels. (1 Jan 83, p. 4)

Electrification Plans

(Text) The first plans for electrification of rural areas are beginning to be implemented in Mozambique. In 1983, electric lamps were installed in many rural areas in Maputo Province. At present, an electric line, dubbed "Central-North" is being constructed. After its completion in 1985, electricity will reach farms in Tete, Zambezia, Nampula, Niasa and Cabo-Delgado Provinces. Soviet specialists in Tete have been of great help in the development of electrification. (15 Jan 84, p. 5)

Namibia (South West Africa People's Organization)

SWAPO Representative Criticizes Pretoria

(Excerpt) The major goal of South African bloody aggression against Angola is to destabilize Angola and overthrow the government, and install authorities obedient to Pretoria and its Western friends, said the SWAPO representative in the Congo, Ngugo Vacolele. (15 Jan 84, p. 1)

Nigeria

Military Coup

(Text) A military coup occurred in Nigeria. In a radio broadcast, a statement from the leaders of the coup states that its the reason for the coup is the sharp deterioration of the country's economic situation. (1 Jan 83, p. 4)

The Coup in Nigeria

(Text) As a result of the military coup in Nigeria which took place on the night of 30 to 31 December, Major General Muhammad Buhari, former Minister of housing and environment, has become Nigerian head of state and Commander in Chief of the country's Armed Forces. In an address to the nation, the new head of state said that the constitution has been suspended. The Nigerian Armed Forces, he said, have proclaimed the creation of a federal military government incorporating a supreme military council and a federal council of states. Executive councils controlled by military governors have also been formed in all states. Their activity is directed by the federal executive council. The military took power, Muhammad Buhari stressed, in order to "lead the country out of serious economic difficulties." The federal military government, he said, will make the necessary efforts to improve economic management, eliminate the balance of payments deficit, substantially reduce nonproductive spending, and improve the situation of the working people's masses.

As is known, in recent years Nigeria has undergone a serious recession caused by the world economic crisis. Its many years of dependence on oil as the main source of currency revenue has affected the country particularly. As a result of this the state's income has fallen, exports have dropped sharply, and the foreign debt has increased. The Nigerian head of state stressed that in the foreign policy sphere the federal military government will maintain and strengthen existing diplomatic relations with other states and international organizations, including the United Nations and the OAU. The provisions of agreements and treaties concluded by the previous government will also be respected and observed. (2 Jan 84, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #001, 3 Jan 84, pp. J1-2)

Coup Aftermath

(Excerpt) According to reports from Nigeria, the situation in Lagos, Ibadan, and other major cities of the country remains calm following the military coup during the night between 30 and 31 December. Army units occupy the airport, radio station, and government buildings. All flights of civil aircraft have been banned. (3 Jan 83, p. 5)

New Government

(Excerpt) The new military authorities decided to intervene in the political sphere in the interest of the population, said Muhammad Buhari, Chairman of the new Supreme Military Council. He noted that in the past year, the national economy was reaching catastrophic proportions. (5 Jan 84, p. 5)

M. Buhari Statement

(Text) The new Nigerian leadership is prepared to develop relations of friendship and cooperation with all states, Muhammed Buhari, Chairman of the country's Supreme Military Council, has said. Addressing a meeting with representatives of the diplomatic corps, he stressed that the republic's government will unconditionally observe all Nigeria's bilateral and multilateral treaties and commitments. We intend to build relations with other countries on the basis of equality, mutual respect, sovereignty, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, M. Buhari said. Nigeria, the Supreme Military Council head said, rejects the attempts "of some states which regard themselves as 'democratic' to take on the defense of the 'democracy' which allegedly existed in the country under the former administration. It is well known that 'democracy' in the form in which it operated in Nigeria prior to 31 December last year actually served as a screen concealing economic chaos, unemployment, and corruption. We believe," M. Buhari stressed, "that statements of this kind are dictated by motives hostile to Nigeria." (6 Jan 84, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #005, 9 Jan 84, p. J1)

New Leader Holds Press Conference

(Excerpt) The new leaders of Nigeria will pay a great deal of attention to African problems as part of its foreign policy, said the Chairman of the Supreme Military Council, Muhammad Buhari, during a press conference. He noted the readiness of the government to observe established international commitments both of a bilateral and multilateral character, and to continue to maintain friendly relations with other countries. (7 Jan 83, p. 5)

Buhari Takes Power

(Excerpt) In Nigeria, the civilian administration was replaced by a federal military government led by Major General Muhammad Buhari who became chief of the military forces and Chairman of the Supreme Military Council made up of 19 people in whose hands rests all authority. Formed as well was the federal council of states and an executive council of states under the leadership of military governors.

"The necessity for changes came about," said Buhari, "because of the serious economic crisis from which our country must be extricated." (9 Jan 84, p. 5)

The Situation in Nigeria

(Text) The majority of the Nigerian population expresses support for the military government's measures aimed at improving the country's economic situation and combating inflation and unemployment, the newspaper Nigerian Observer writes. Workers, teachers, merchants, and various public organizations, the newspaper stresses, welcome the new leadership's steps to revive industrial production and its desire to put an end to speculation and unrestrained price

risers and to eliminate the shortage of essential goods. The introduction of measures intended to limit the flow of currency from the country has been announced here. The inhabitants declare their readiness to help the new administration. The mass media are commenting widely on the statement by the country's new leadership on its intention of pursuing an active, independent foreign policy. Before the previous government came to power, the New Nigerian newspaper stresses, the republic adhered to a principled stance on the problems of the continent's decolonization, which was the pride of all Nigerians and which upset the plans of Washington, Paris, and London with regard to Africa. But then the foreign policy was reoriented toward the West, the Nigerian Tribune notes. The former president adopted pro-Western positions, in particular on the questions of granting independence to Namibia. It is characteristic that the government even kept quiet about the US aggression against Grenada, the newspaper notes. Confusion and contradictions were characteristic of the foreign policy of the ousted government, the National Concord newspaper notes. The authorities were unable to elaborate a clear position on the problems of Chad and the Western Sahara. On these and other issues the country subjugated its own interests and those of Africa as a whole to imperialism's policy. In effect, the newspaper writes, Nigeria made political concessions in return for the economic assistance received. (12 Jan 84, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #009, 13 Jan 84, p. J1)

New Government Formed

(Excerpt) The Supreme Military Council of Nigeria, which took power on 31 December, has formed a new government--the Federal Executive Council headed by Muhammad Buhari. Eighteen ministers will be appointed including both military and civilian members. (20 Jan 84, p. 5)

Republic of South Africa

Mine Disaster

(Excerpt) Four African miners died as the result of the collapse of a gold mine in the Transvaal owned by the Anglo-American Corporation. (29 Dec 83, p. 8)

Sao Tome and Principe

CPSU Delegation Returns

(Text) The CPSU delegation headed by A. S. Kapto, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, returned to Moscow on 21 December from the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. (23 Dec 83, p. 4)

Sierra Leone

USSR Ambassador to Sierra Leone Replaced

(Text) The Soviet Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Comrade Yuriy Nikolayevich Meshkov Soviet Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Sierra Leone. The Soviet Supreme Soviet Presidium has relieved Comrade Aleksandr Petrovich Vorozhtsov of his duties as Soviet Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Sierra Leone in connection with his retirement. (10 Jan 84, p. 6, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #009, 13 Jan 84, p. J3)

Upper Volta

Tribunals Established

(Excerpt) National tribunals, established after the taking of power by the Upper Voltan National Revolutionary Council, are examining corruption and abuse committed under previous regimes. Two former presidents, S. Lamizana and S. Zerbo, as well as ministers of previous governments will appear before the tribunals. (27 Dec 83, p. 5)

Zimbabwe

US Cuts Aid

(Excerpt) In Washington it was announced that the administration was reducing by half the amount of aid granted to Zimbabwe. Official American representatives noted cynically that "between the United States and this country exists a difference in approach to international problems." The press explains that Zimbabwean representatives have not supported the US position on questions in the UN. (25 Dec 83, p. 5)